

Docket No.: AB-125U

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (original):** A method for treating a patient with urgency, frequency, urinary incontinence, and/or fecal incontinence comprising:

- providing at least one stimulator having at least two electrodes;
- implanting the at least one stimulator adjacent to at least one parasympathetic target that innervates at least one urinary, gastrointestinal, and/or other pelvic structure;
- providing operating power to the at least one stimulator;
- providing stimulation parameters to the at least one stimulator;
- generating inhibitory stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters;

and

- delivering the inhibitory stimulation pulses to nerves and tissue adjacent to the at least two electrodes in order to treat urgency, frequency, urinary incontinence, and/or fecal incontinence;
- wherein the stimulator has a size and shape suitable for placement adjacent to the at least one parasympathetic target.

**Claim 2 (canceled):** The method of Claim 1 wherein the stimulation pulses are delivered at greater than about 50 to 100 Hz.

**Claim 3 (original):** The method of Claim 1 wherein the at least one parasympathetic target comprises one or more of the sacral nerve roots and sacral spinal nerves.

**Claim 4 (original):** The method of Claim 3 wherein the at least one sacral nerve comprises the third sacral nerve.

**Claim 5 (original):** The method of Claim 1 wherein the at least one parasympathetic target comprises at least one of the pelvic splanchnic nerves.

**Claim 6 (original):** The method of Claim 1 wherein the at least one parasympathetic target comprises one or more of the rectal, inferior hypogastric, prostatic, vesical, and uterovaginal nerve plexuses.

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~~7~~  
**Claim 7 (original):** The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

providing at least one sensor;  
using the at least one sensor to sense at least one physical condition; and  
determining the stimulation parameters based upon the at least one sensed condition.

~~8~~  
**Claim 8 (original):** The method of Claim 1 wherein providing stimulation parameters comprises receiving the stimulation parameters from at least one external appliance.

~~9~~  
**Claim 9 (original):** The method of Claim 1 wherein providing operating power comprises receiving the operating power from at least one external appliance.

~~10~~  
**Claim 10 (original):** The method of Claim 1 further comprising providing and implanting more than one stimulator.

~~11~~  
**Claim 11 (currently amended):** A method for treating a patient with urinary and/or fecal [[retention]] dysfunction comprising:

providing at least one stimulator having at least two electrodes;  
implanting the at least one stimulator adjacent to at least one parasympathetic target that innervates at least one urinary, gastrointestinal, and/or other pelvic structure;  
providing operating power to the at least one stimulator;  
providing stimulation parameters to the at least one stimulator;  
generating inhibitory stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters;  
delivering the inhibitory stimulation pulses to nerve fibers adjacent to the at least two electrodes in order to treat urgency, frequency, urinary incontinence, and/or fecal incontinence;  
generating excitatory stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters;  
and  
delivering the excitatory stimulation pulses to nerves and tissue adjacent to the at least two electrodes in order to treat urinary and/or fecal retention;  
wherein the stimulator has a size and shape suitable for placement adjacent to the at least one parasympathetic target.

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**Claim 12 (canceled):** The method of Claim 11 wherein the stimulation pulses are delivered at less than about 50 to 100 Hz.

**Claim 13 (canceled):** The method of Claim 12 wherein the stimulation pulses are delivered at about 20 to 35 Hz.

**Claim 14 (original):** The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one parasympathetic target comprises one or more of the sacral nerve roots and sacral spinal nerves.

**Claim 15 (original):** The method of Claim 14 wherein the at least one sacral nerve comprises the third sacral nerve.

**Claim 16 (original):** The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one parasympathetic target comprises at least one of the pelvic splanchnic nerves.

**Claim 17 (original):** The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one parasympathetic target comprises one or more of the rectal, inferior hypogastric, prostatic, vesical, and uterovaginal nerve plexuses.

**Claim 18 (original):** The method of Claim 11 further comprising:  
providing at least one sensor;  
using the at least one sensor to sense at least one physical condition; and  
determining the stimulation parameters based upon the at least one sensed condition.

**Claim 19 (original):** The method of Claim 11 further comprising providing and implanting more than one stimulator.

**Claim 20 (currently amended):** A method for treating a patient with urinary and/or bowel dysfunction comprising:  
providing at least one stimulator having at least two electrodes;  
implanting the at least one stimulator adjacent to at least one sympathetic target that innervates at least one urinary, gastrointestinal, and/or other pelvic structure;

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providing operating power to the at least one stimulator;  
providing stimulation parameters to the at least one stimulator;  
generating stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters; and  
delivering the stimulation pulses to nerves and tissue adjacent to the at least two  
electrodes in order to treat urinary and/or bowel dysfunction;  
wherein the stimulator has a size and shape suitable for placement adjacent to the at  
least one sympathetic target;  
the stimulation pulses comprise inhibitory stimulation pulses; and  
the urinary and/or bowel dysfunction comprises urinary and/or fecal retention.

~~20~~  
**Claim 21 (currently amended):** The method of Claim ~~20~~ wherein:

the stimulation pulses further comprise excitatory stimulation pulses; and  
the urinary and/or bowel dysfunction further comprises urgency, frequency, urinary  
incontinence, and/or fecal incontinence; and  
the method further includes delivering the excitatory stimulation pulses to nerve fibers  
adjacent to the at least two electrodes in order to treat urgency, frequency, urinary incontinence,  
and/or fecal incontinence.

**Claim 22 (canceled):** The method of Claim 21 wherein the stimulation pulses are delivered at  
less than about 50 to 100 Hz.

**Claim 23 (canceled):** The method of Claim 20 wherein:

the stimulation pulses comprise inhibitory stimulation pulses; and  
the urinary and/or bowel dysfunction comprises urinary and/or fecal retention.

**Claim 24 (canceled):** The method of Claim 23 wherein the stimulation pulses are delivered at  
greater than about 50 to 100 Hz.

~~25~~  
**Claim 25 (original):** The method of Claim ~~20~~ wherein the at least one sympathetic target  
comprises at least one of the thoracic roots, the thoracic spinal nerves, the lumbar roots, and  
the lumbar spinal nerves.

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**Claim 26 (original):** The method of Claim 25 wherein the at least one sympathetic target comprises at least one of a root and a spinal nerve of at least one of T9, T10, T11, T12, L1, and L2.

**Claim 27 (original):** The method of Claim 20 wherein the at least one sympathetic target comprises at least one of the greater splanchnic nerve, the lesser splanchnic nerve, the least splanchnic nerve, the lumbar splanchnic nerves, the sacral splanchnic nerves, and their branches.

**Claim 28 (original):** The method of Claim 27 wherein the at least one sympathetic target comprises one or more of the hypogastric nerves, the superior hypogastric plexus, and the inferior hypogastric plexus.

**Claim 29 (original):** The method of Claim 20 further comprising:  
providing at least one sensor;  
using the at least one sensor to sense at least one physical condition; and  
determining the stimulation parameters based upon the at least one sensed condition.

**Claim 30 (original):** The method of Claim 20 further comprising providing and implanting more than one stimulator.

**Claim 31 (original):** A method for treating a patient with urgency, frequency, urinary incontinence, and/or fecal incontinence comprising the steps of:  
providing at least one means for stimulating tissue;  
implanting the at least one stimulating means adjacent to at least one parasympathetic target that innervates at least one urinary, gastrointestinal, and/or other pelvic structure;  
providing operating power to the at least one stimulating means;  
providing stimulation parameters to the at least one stimulating means;  
generating inhibitory stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters;  
and

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delivering the inhibitory stimulation pulses to nerves and tissue adjacent to the at least one stimulating means in order to treat urgency, frequency, urinary incontinence, and/or fecal incontinence;

wherein the stimulating means has a size and shape suitable for placement adjacent to the at least one parasympathetic target.

**Claim ~~32~~<sup>31</sup> (currently amended):** A method for treating a patient with urinary and/or bowel dysfunction comprising the steps of:

providing at least one means for stimulating tissue;

implanting the at least one stimulating means adjacent to at least one sympathetic target that innervates at least one urinary, gastrointestinal, and/or other pelvic structure;

providing operating power to the at least one stimulating means;

providing stimulation parameters to the at least one stimulating means;

generating inhibitory stimulation pulses in accordance with the stimulation parameters; and

delivering the stimulation pulses to nerves and tissue adjacent to the at least one stimulating means in order to treat urinary and/or bowel dysfunction;

wherein the stimulating means has a size and shape suitable for placement adjacent to the at least one sympathetic target.